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April 29, 2019  
Rep. Lee Zeldin  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20015

RE: HR 2194, the Protecting US Heritage Abroad Act

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

I am writing on behalf of the Global Heritage Alliance, an organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible cultural policies. The US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad has provided a remarkable service preserving and protecting Jewish, Christian and Muslim sites throughout Central and Eastern Europe that faced destruction and ruin in the wake of WWII, the Holocaust, decades of Communist oppression, and more recently civil war in the Balkans.

The Commission's work is of significant importance to the American citizens and their descendants who fled that portion of Europe and greatly value the preservation of and access to the cemeteries, religious shrines and other monuments of their ancestors. Today a similar threat is posed to the cemeteries and shrines of minority religious groups and sects throughout the Middle East and North Africa, where we have witnessed the deliberate destruction and desecration of religious sites by ISIS and Assad, collateral destruction of cultural sites by the Saudi/UAE bombing campaign in Yemen and the everyday deterioration of sites abandoned by minorities fleeing persecution or possible death.

Your legislation, HR 2194, the Protecting US Heritage Abroad Act, is an important and essential step in preserving over a millennium of religious culture in that region. Those Americans who fled persecution in that region will be

reassured that their ancestor's heritage and their access to it will now be a focus of our government.

Congressman Zeldin, you have shown great leadership introducing this important legislation which will make a real difference in the preservation of so much of that regions culture. For these reasons the Global Heritage Alliance supports and endorses your legislation and urges its speedy passage by the Congress.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Peter Tompa